

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Claim Listing:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for sealing a passage through tissue, comprising:
a bioabsorbable body comprising a proximal end, a distal end, the body comprising a lumen extending between the proximal end and the distal end; and
a sealing member disposed within the lumen that is expandable across the lumen for substantially sealing the lumen from fluid flow therethrough in ~~either direction~~ a proximal to distal direction and a distal to proximal direction;
wherein the bioabsorbable body does not expand when exposed to the fluid and wherein the sealing member does not extend outside the bioabsorbable body lumen.
2. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the sealing member comprises a material that is expandable when exposed to fluid to substantially seal the lumen.
3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the material comprises an expandable gel foam.
4. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the sealing member comprises an annular-shaped member.
5. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the sealing member comprises a bioabsorbable material.

6. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the sealing member is biased towards a first configuration for substantially sealing the lumen from fluid flow therethrough, and is movable to a second configuration for accommodating introduction of one or more devices through the lumen.

7. (Original) The device of claim 1, further comprising a connector on the proximal end of the body for detachably securing the body to a delivery device.

8. (Original) The device of claim 1, further comprising an elongate shaft extending from the proximal end of the body.

9. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the body has a length of not more than about ten millimeters.

10. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the body has a diameter and a length, the diameter being not more than about twice the length.

11. (Currently Amended) A device for sealing a passage through tissue, comprising: a bioabsorbable body comprising a proximal end, a distal end, the body comprising a lumen extending between a proximal port and the distal end, the lumen comprising a tapered portion that tapers in cross-section; and

a sealing member comprising a generally annular-shaped member disposed adjacent a wide end of the tapered portion of the lumen, the sealing member being movable into the tapered portion for substantially sealing the lumen from fluid flow therethrough in either direction a proximal to distal direction and a distal to proximal direction;

wherein the bioabsorbable body does not expand when exposed to the fluid and wherein the sealing member does not extend outside the bioabsorbable body lumen.

12. (Original) The device of claim 11, wherein the sealing member comprises a material that is expandable when exposed to fluid to substantially seal the lumen.

13. (Original) The device of claim 11, wherein the sealing member comprises a coil of material.

14. (Original) The device of claim 11, wherein the sealing member comprises a flexible material that may be wedged into the tapered portion.

15. (Original) The device of claim 11, wherein the sealing member comprises a bioabsorbable material.

16. (Original) The device of claim 11, further comprising a connector on the proximal end of the body for detachably securing the body to a delivery device.

17. (Original) The device of claim 11, further comprising an elongate shaft extending from the proximal end of the body.

18. (Original) The device of claim 11, wherein the body has a length of not more than about ten millimeters.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for sealing a passage through tissue, comprising:

an elongate member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending between the proximal end and the distal end;

a plug member disposed on the distal end of the elongate member, the plug member comprising a bioabsorbable body having a distal end, a proximal end, a lumen extending between

the proximal end and the distal end, the plug member lumen being in fluid communication with the elongate member lumen; and

a sealing member disposed in the plug member lumen for substantially sealing the plug member lumen from the fluid flow therethrough in ~~either direction~~ a proximal to distal direction and a distal to proximal direction;

wherein the bioabsorbable body does not expand when exposed to the fluid and wherein the sealing member does not extend outside the plug member lumen.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the plug member lumen provides fluid communication between the distal end of the plug member and the lumen of the elongated member.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the sealing member comprises a material that is expandable when exposed to fluid for substantially sealing the passage.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the sealing member is biased towards a first configuration for substantially sealing the plug member lumen from fluid flow therethrough, and is movable to a second configuration for accommodating introduction of one or more devices through the plug member lumen.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the sealing member comprises a valve.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the plug member lumen includes a tapered portion reducing in cross-section, and wherein the sealing member

comprises a generally annular-shaped member disposed adjacent a wide end of the tapered portion of the plug member lumen, the annular-shaped being movable into the tapered portion for substantially sealing the plug member lumen.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising a activation element coupled to the elongate member, the activation element extending into the plug member lumen for moving the sealing member into the tapered portion for substantially sealing the plug member lumen.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a second elongate member insertable through the plug member lumen such that a distal end of the second elongate member is disposed beyond the distal end of the plug member.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the distal end of the second elongate member comprises a location indicator for identifying when the distal end of the plug member is disposed adjacent a body lumen.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the second elongate member comprises a tubular member including a bleed back lumen, and wherein the location indicator comprises a bleed back port on the distal end of the tubular member, the bleed back port being in communication with the bleed back lumen.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the location identifier comprises an expandable member, the expandable member being expandable when the distal end of the second elongate member is disposed within a body lumen for providing tactile feedback of a location of the distal end of the plug member with respect to the body lumen.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the second elongate member comprises an obturator including a substantially atraumatic distal tip.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising a valve in the plug member lumen for substantially sealing the body member lumen yet accommodating insertion of the second elongate member therethrough.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the plug member is releasable from the elongate member.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the elongate member comprises an actuator for releasing the plug member from the distal end of the elongate member.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising cooperating connectors on the distal end of the elongate member and on the plug member for releasably securing the plug member to the distal end of the elongate member.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the plug member comprises an interior cavity, and wherein the elongate member comprises an engagement element extending from the distal end thereof for insertion into the cavity, the engagement element being expandable and collapsible for engaging and disengaging an interior wall of the plug member, thereby selectively securing the plug member to and releasing the plug member from the distal end of the elongate member, respectively.

37-61. (Cancelled)